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DE RUEHUL #0926 1270717  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 060717Z MAY 08  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9740  
INFO RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4388

UNCLAS SEOUL 000926

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OTRA AMGT KNNP PREL MNUC KN CH JA  
SUBJECT: KOREA COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR EAP/K SUNG KIM AND  
DELEGATION

REF: SECSTATE 46988

¶1. (U) Embassy Seoul welcomes and grants country clearance for the May 7 through May 11, 2008 visit of Sung Kim, Director of the Office of Korean Affairs; Douglas Frank, Program Manager, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; Chuck Lutes, NSC Director for Counter-Proliferation; and Richard Klein, Senior Technical Expert, U.S. Department of Defense. The purpose of the visit is to travel to Seoul en route to Pyongyang for consultations related to the Six-Party Talks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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¶2. (U) Control officer for the visit is Political Officer Donny Yoo.

Office telephone: (82)(2) 397-4154  
Embassy operator (82)(2) 397-4114 then press "0"  
Cell phone: (82)(11) 298-4136  
Fax number: (82)(2) 733-4791  
Unclassified email: YooDH@state.gov  
Classified email: YooDH@state.sgov.gov

LODGING

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¶3. (U) Embassy has reserved four rooms at the Seoul Plaza Hotel for May 7, 2008 and three hotel rooms for May 10-11, 2008 at per diem rates. The reservation confirmation numbers are 467338, 467401, 467404, and 467337 for all guests/for all nights. Hotel is located at 23 2-Ga Taepyeong-no, Jung-gu, Seoul Korea 100-864, Seoul; hotel phone number is 82-2-310-7710; fax number: 82-2-310-7211. Cancellation policy is 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid one-night penalty.

TRANSPORTATION

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¶4. (U) All official travelers must possess a Korean visa to enter the country. Travelers may contact the nearest Korean Consulate/Embassy to obtain a visa. The delegation will be met at the airport by a motor pool car and driver.

THREAT ASSESSMENT

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¶5. (U) Americans in Seoul are subject to worldwide threat from international terrorists, although we have no information to suggest any specific terrorist threats directed at Americans here. Political demonstrations occur frequently in Seoul, and are occasionally anti-American. Americans can minimize personal risk by staying away from demonstrations and by avoiding confrontation or altercations with protestors. While relatively infrequent by U.S. standards, street crime does occur. Most reported crimes involve pick-pocketing in tourist areas and are predominantly non-violent in nature. The security precautions a person would take in any large city are appropriate throughout South Korea.

¶6. (SBU) As a matter of prudence, you must assume that all rooms, telephones, cellular phones, and fax machines can be monitored. You should not discuss sensitive or classified information in uncontrolled areas. Official travelers should ensure that hard-copy and electronic sensitive information is not left in hotel rooms. Computers, including laptops and Personal Digital Assistants, cannot be brought into the Embassy except with prior permission from the RSO office.

¶7. (U) Police are considered capable and well trained. Seoul metropolitan authorities staff English-speaking personnel 24 hours daily to handle local emergencies. Telephone numbers are as follows: 112 police emergency, 119 fire and ambulance.

VERSHBOW